(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Leather Goods

1769. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of leather goods excluding footwear exported to foreign countries during the last three years alongwith the names of such countries;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the export of leather goods during the above period;

(c) whether there has been any increase or decline in the export of these goods during this period; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to encourage export of leather goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Exports of leather goods and manufactures during the last three years mainly to FRG, U.K., France, Switzerland, Canada, USA, GDR; Denmark etc. are estimated by the Council for Leather Exports to have been of the order of:—

Year	Value in Rs. million
1984-85	665
1985-86	1019
1996-87	1563

The leather goods include many assorted items, quantum-wise details are not available.

(c) There has been an increase in exports of leather goods and manufactures during the above period.

(d) An easy access to imported machinery, chemicals and accessories, including embellishments with concessional rate of duty, permission for export production of leather goods in organised sector subject to the prescribed export obligation, training of personnel engaged in production of leather garments and other leather goods, design and product development, participation in overseas specilised commodity fairs, visit of sales|study delegations to different international markets are some of the steps taken by the Govt. to encourage export of leather goods.

Staff Strength of Delhi Passport Office

1770. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present strength of staff of Delhi Passport Office;

(b) the number of passports issued by Delhi Passport Office during the last three years; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the staff of Delhi Passport Office on account of the increasing number of applications for the issue of passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The present sanctioned strength of officers and staff of Delhi Passport Office in various grades is as under:

Group 'A' .	6
Group 'B' .	4
Group (C) .	105
Group (D) .	12—1 (Part time)
(b) 1984 .	1,12,268
1985 .	96,622
1986 .	1,09,603

(c) The staff strength of the Passport Offices is reviewed in March every year. On the basis of the workload handled by a particular office during the previous year, the staff position is increased|decreased as per the norms established by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance. During the last 3 years,